

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. CARR-1389

Magi No.

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Richards-Feezer Farm

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 5268 Bowers Road not for publication

city, town Taneytown X vicinity of congressional district

state Maryland county Carroll

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<u> </u> district	<u> </u> public	<u> </u> X occupied	<u> </u> X agriculture <u> </u> museum
<u> </u> X building(s)	<u> </u> X private	<u> </u> unoccupied	<u> </u> commercial <u> </u> park
<u> </u> structure	<u> </u> both	<u> </u> work in progress	<u> </u> educational <u> </u> X private residence
<u> </u> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<u> </u> entertainment <u> </u> religious
<u> </u> object	<u> </u> in process	<u> </u> X yes: restricted	<u> </u> government <u> </u> scientific
	<u> </u> being considered	<u> </u> yes: unrestricted	<u> </u> industrial <u> </u> transportation
	<u> </u> X not applicable	<u> </u> no	<u> </u> military <u> </u> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Dale & Mary Ellen Baumgardner

street & number 5268 Bowers Road telephone no.: 756-6386

city, town Taneytown state and zip code Maryland 21787

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Courthouse Annex liber EAS 211

street & number 55 North Court Street folio 85

city, town Westminster state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date federal state county local

pository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. CARR-1389

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Summary:

The Richards-Fezer Farm is located at 5268 Bowers Road, on the north side of the road, about 3 miles north of Taneytown. The complex consists of a stone barn, a wagon shed, a poultry house and a shed. The barn is banked on the west, with an east-facing forebay, and is of rubble field stone with vertical-board siding on the forebay. The gable roof has a north-south ridge. The south elevation has wood louver vents in mortised and tenoned and pegged frames. The gable peak has what appears to be a plastered date plaque with "J. S. ? 18[99]." The north elevation stone wall has been removed from the upper story and is covered by a later hay shed. This may be an original configuration. The gable end has vertical-board siding. The west elevation has in the center a pair of beaded-edge-and-center vertical-board wagon doors on rollers. The lower story has a unique framing arrangement that survives in part. There are two girts that run east-west. They are set in pockets in the walls and supported by a series of hewn posts. The summer beam arrangement was also unique. One section of summer beam ran from the south wall to the south girt, in the center of the building. Two sections of summer beam ran from the south girt to the north girt, and one summer ran from the north girt to the north wall, in the center of the building. The joists, are hewn on top and bottom inside the barn and on all four sides under the forebay. The upper story has a center threshing floor flanked by a large hay mow on each end, and with a granary in the southeast corner. There are two interior bents. The roof framing has four pairs of principal rafters, one at each end and one over each bent. The end pairs retain a collar beam. The purlins are mortised and tenoned and pegged between the principal rafters and support $\frac{3}{4}$ -round log common rafters.

Contributing Resources: 4

The Richards-Fezer Farm is located at 5268 Bowers Road, on the north side of the road, about 3 miles north of Taneytown and $1\frac{3}{4}$ miles southeast of Harney in northwest Carroll County, Maryland. The farm is located well back off the road on land that slopes down to a creek on the east. The complex consists of a stone barn, a wagon shed, a poultry house and a shed.

The barn is banked on the west, with an east-facing forebay, and is of rubble field stone with vertical-board siding on the forebay. The gable roof has a north-south ridge, widely overhanging eaves, and inverted-V-seam metal roofing. The east elevation on the lower story has, from south to north, a door, a diamond-in-section wood louver vent that is now boarded up, three doors, a new opening with paired $\frac{4}{4}$ sash, a door, another new

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Description (continued)

Section 7 Page 2

opening with paired 4/4 sash, and a door. The doors are vertical-board dutch doors on strap hinges that have round ends; they are set in pegged mortise and tenon frames with three diamond-in-section wood louvers above each door. The sill has half-lap scarfs that are pegged from the top. The upper story has, from south to north, a vent, a door, two vents, a vent set higher up, double doors on rollers, and two vents set higher up.

The south elevation, in the lower story, has a four-light metal sash to the west, with a wood lintel, where there was originally a door. The east bay has a boarded-up vent. The upper story has two wood louver vents in mortised and tenoned and pegged frames, with two identical vents above and two more in the gable end. The bottom two vents have rough key stones and the top two have large stone lintels. The gable peak has what appears to be a plastered date plaque with "J. S. ? 18[99]." The north elevation foundation has two diamond-in-section wood vents, the west one now boarded on the exterior. The stone wall has been removed from the upper story and is covered by a later hay shed. This may be an original configuration. The gable end has vertical-board siding.

The west elevation has a later opening in the foundation to the north that has paired 4/4 sash. The upper story stone north of the center doors is for the most part now gone, and the wall has infill of scrap lumber covered by corrugated metal. In the center are a pair of beaded-edge-and-center vertical-board wagon doors on rollers. South of these doors is a wood vent in a mortised and tenoned and pegged frame in the south-center bay and a later, CMU addition in the south bay. Above are two vents identical to the lower south-center bay.

The lower story has a unique framing arrangement that survives in part. There are two girts that are hewn on all four sides and run east-west. They are set in pockets in the walls and supported by a series of hewn posts that are tenoned and pegged under them. The south girt is just north of the second door from the south, and stops short of the west wall because of stairs placed here. The stairs are not original, but there is no pocket in the west wall, suggesting that this girt never ran the entire width of the barn. The north girt is set just south of the second door from the north. There are, or were, also two rows of hewn posts running east-west and tenoned and pegged into a joist above them. One row is just south of the second door from the south while the other is just north of the second door from the north. These posts apparently created two aisles and were used to support horizontal boards on hay racks. The summer beam arrangement was also unique. One section of summer beam ran from the south wall to the south girt, in the center of the building. Two sections of summer beam ran from the south girt to the north girt, and one summer ran from the north girt to the north wall, in the center of the building. The summer beams are also hewn on all four sides. They in turn support the joists, which are hewn on top and bottom inside the barn and on all

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Description (continued)

Section 7 Page 3

four sides under the forebay. The joists run east-west and rest on a board about 1 inch thick set on the west wall. There is a hewn peg rail in the south wall.

The upper story has a center threshing floor flanked by a large hay mow on each end, and with a granary in the southeast corner. There are two interior bents of hewn members with pegged mortise and tenon joints. The bent has three posts, and the forebay is not framed in with the bents, but is framed separately and not connected by any horizontal member. The bents have two girts. The lower girt has a bevelled haunch on each end to give them extra bearing on the posts. The center post is deeply notched and the lower girt rests in this notch and is pegged; it appears that a tenon is cut on the bottom of the notch, the girt is set into the notch and dropped down onto the tenon, and finally pegged. The lower girt has two down braces. The top girt laps over the center post and the plates that rest on top of the end posts. These plates are each supported by an intermediate post in each mow. The south end girt is supported by several corbelled stones in the south wall. The north wall has a low stone wall with a sill set on it, and two end posts up against short sections of stone wall on the east and west. These posts are braced and are tenoned and pegged to the north end girt.

The roof framing has four pairs of principal rafters, one at each end and one over each bent. These rafters are very regular, as if they are sawn, and appear to be tapered from the foot to the ridge. They are tenoned into the girts and pegged. The ridge joint is not visible. The end pairs retain a collar beam with a center tenon and peg. The other two pairs have the collar beam removed and replaced with makeshift purlin posts. The purlins are mortised and tenoned and pegged between the principal rafters and are braced to them. The purlins support $\frac{3}{4}$ -round log common rafters that are placed between the principal rafters, and appear to be half-lapped and pegged at the ridge. They support lath, and there are shingles on the west side. The rafter ends are tapered and pass over the hewn plate; the joint here is not visible. The plate is scarfed and pegged with two pegs driven in from the top.

There is a wagon shed about 40 feet southwest of the barn that has horizontal slats on the sides and a gable roof of corrugated metal with a north-south ridge. It has a corn crib on the east side and one on the west that no longer extends all the way to the south. There is a later shed on the west. The south elevation has a vertical-board door to the east, on the crib, and is open to the west. The gable end has German siding and a 6/6 sash. The north elevation has double wagon doors on strap hinges and the gable end matches that on the south. The shed has a hewn, heavy timber-braced frame and the rafters appear to be 2 x 4's.

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Description (continued)

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About 20 feet southwest of the wagon shed is a poultry house with a concrete foundation, German siding, and a shed roof of corrugated metal that slopes to the south. The east elevation has a vertical-board door on strap hinges.

There is a shed about 75 feet south of the barn that has a concrete foundation, German siding, and a shed roof that slopes to the east. The west elevation has a four-light sash to the north and a beaded-edge-and-center vertical-board door to the south.

KS/lh:7-8-94:CARR1389.des

8. Significance

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Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☒ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Summary:

The Richards-Fezer Farm was apparently acquired in stages by Philip Richards. Richards sold the farm he assembled in 1820, at which time it comprised 120¾ acres. The sale price of \$4,830, or \$40 per acres, suggests that there were already good improvements to the property. While the existing stone barn could have been built by this time, there is no guarantee that it was. The farm was purchased by Jacob Fezer and shortly afterward sold to his son, Jacob Fezer, Jr. Fezer, Jr. presumably farmed this land for a time, but at an unknown date he moved to Mt. Joy Township in Adams County, Pennsylvania, where he died in 1854. The barn was certainly standing by 1841, along with a log house. The house reportedly burned down while owned by the Baumgardners. The barn is one of only a handful of stone barns that survive in Carroll County, which alone makes it of great importance, but its unique framing system gives it additional significance.

Geographic Organization: Piedmont

Chronological/Development Period: Agricultural-Industrial Transition A.D. 1815-1870;
Industrial/Urban Dominance A.D. 1870-1930

Historic Period Themes: Agriculture, Architecture

Resource Types: Small family farmstead, Rural vernacular

The Richards-Fezer Farm was apparently acquired in stages by Philip Richards, although only one deed, for a 43¾-acre parcel bought in 1811, could be located. Richards sold the farm he assembled in 1820, at which time it comprised 120¾ acres. The sale price of \$4,830, or \$40 per acre, suggests that there were already good improvements to the property, although farms with log houses and log barns did sell for more per acre in some instances at this time, in this region of the county. Thus, while the existing stone barn could have been built by this time, there is no guarantee that it was. The farm was purchased by Jacob Fezer and shortly afterward sold to his son, Jacob Fezer, Jr. Fezer, Jr. lived in Frederick County at that time and presumably farmed this land for a time, but at an unknown date he moved to Mr. Joy Township in

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Significance (continued)

Section 8 Page 2

Adams County, Pennsylvania, where he died in 1854. Fezer, Jr. could have been responsible for building the stone barn, if Richards did not.

The 1835 tax assessment notes a stone house on the property, which is surely an error since there was a log house on the farm for much of its history. The stone building noted by the assessor was most likely the barn. The roof structure of the barn dates it as an early structure, and the use of a large notch in the center post to set the lower girt is a unique feature only seen on one other barn, the brick barn on the John Hiner Farm (CARR-115) that was built before 1837 about 6½ miles south of here. The stone barn was certainly standing by 1841, along with a log house. Fezer (Feeser), Jr. seems to have been farming it still, too, as he had four horses, seven cows, 15 hogs, and seven sheep, worth a total of \$290. He also had house furnishings worth \$159. When Fezer, Jr. died he was living on one farm, had recently sold another farm to one of his sons, and owned a stone house where another son was living. All of these properties were apparently located in Pennsylvania. This farm in Maryland he ordered to be sold, and it was advertised for sale in September, 1854.

Of the 122 acres, about 36 were woodland and 30 meadow, plus two orchards, one of which was new. Of the buildings, it was noted:

There is likewise a Lime Kiln on the property. The improvements consist of a two story Weather-Boarded House, large and roomy, with backbuilding; a large Stone Bank Barn, Wagon Shed, Carriage House, Spring House, with Spring; and all other necessary out-buildings.

The farm was eventually bought by John Good of Union Township in Adams County, Pennsylvania, for only \$2,750, a substantial decrease in value that is not easily explained, unless the farm deteriorated while it was held by tenants. Good sold the farm ten years later, in 1865, for \$4,800, suggesting that he had improved the productivity of the land. At that time, he was listed as being from Carroll County, so he probably had moved to this farm to work the land himself. Good sold the farm to Stirling Galt, a major landowner in the Taneytown area (see CARR-112) who undoubtedly leased it to tenants until he sold it in 1881.

The farm was again owned by the Feeser's in 1915, until purchased by the Baumgardner family in 1944. They retain possession, and the farm has probably been owner-occupied most of the time since Galt sold it. The house reportedly burned down while owned by the Baumgardners. The barn is one of only a handful of stone barns that survive in Carroll County, which alone makes it of great importance, but its unique framing system gives it additional significance.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. CARR-1389

Land Records

Jacob Feeser (Fezer) will J.B. 2-150

Hanover Spectator, 8 Sept. 1854, p. 3

Tax Assessments, 1825, 1835, 1841, 1866, 1866-76, 1876, 1876-96

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 119.74375 acresQuadrangle name TaneytownQuadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

Zone	Easting				Northing				

B

Zone	Easting				Northing				

C

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D

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E

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F

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kenneth M. Short, Historic Plannerorganization Carroll County Department of Planning date July 20, 1994street & number 225 North Center Street telephone (410) 857-2145city or town Westminster state Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DHCP/DHCD
100 COMMUNITY PLACE
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023
514-7600

CARR-1389
Richards-Fezer Farm
5268 Bowers Road

CHAIN OF TITLE

GRANTOR	HOME COUNTY	GRANTEE	HOME COUNTY	DATE	LIBER	FOLIO	TRANS- ACTION	COMMENTS
Charles W. & Alice M. Baumgardner (wife)	Carroll	Dale & Mary Ellen Baumgardner (wife)	Carroll	11-29-1951	EAS 211	85	Deed fee simple	\$10.00, 119.74375 acres
William G. & Louella C. Feeser (wife)	Carroll	Charles W. & Alice M. Baumgardner (wife)	Carroll	1-3-1944	EAS 182	469	Deed fee simple	\$5.00, 119+ acres, Ina died intestate; single, no heirs but parents
William G. & Louella C. Feeser (wife)	Carroll	Ina L. Feeser (daughter)	Carroll	8-28-1930	EMM 154	333	Deed fee simple	\$100.00, 119+ acres
David F. & Maggie P. Eyler (wife)	Carroll	William G. Feeser	Carroll	3-10-1915	ODG 127	1	Deed fee simple	\$6,000, 119+ acres, on Alloways Creek
Daniel E. Shriver & Ellen E. (wife)	Carroll	David F. & Maggie P. Eyler (wife)	?	3-27-1912	ODG 119	125	Deed fee simple	\$6,000, 119+ acres
Jonas S. & Emily J. Harner (wife)	Carroll	Daniel E. Shriver	?	3-29-1890	WNM 71	236	Deed fee simple	\$4,950, 119 acres
Stirling Galt	Carroll	Jonas S. Harner	Carroll	2-28-1881	FTS 54	373	Deed fee simple	\$4,600, 119 acres
John & Elizabeth Good (wife)	Carroll	Stirling Galt	Carroll	4-3-1865	WAMcK 32	13	Deed fee simple	\$4,800, 120 $\frac{3}{4}$ acres
Jacob Sell (millwright)	Union Township Adams Co., PA	John Good	Union Township Adams Co., PA	4-4-1855	JBB 18	373	Deed Indenture	\$2,750, 120 $\frac{3}{4}$ acres

CARR-1389
Richards-Fezer Farm
5268 Bowers Road

CHAIN OF TITLE

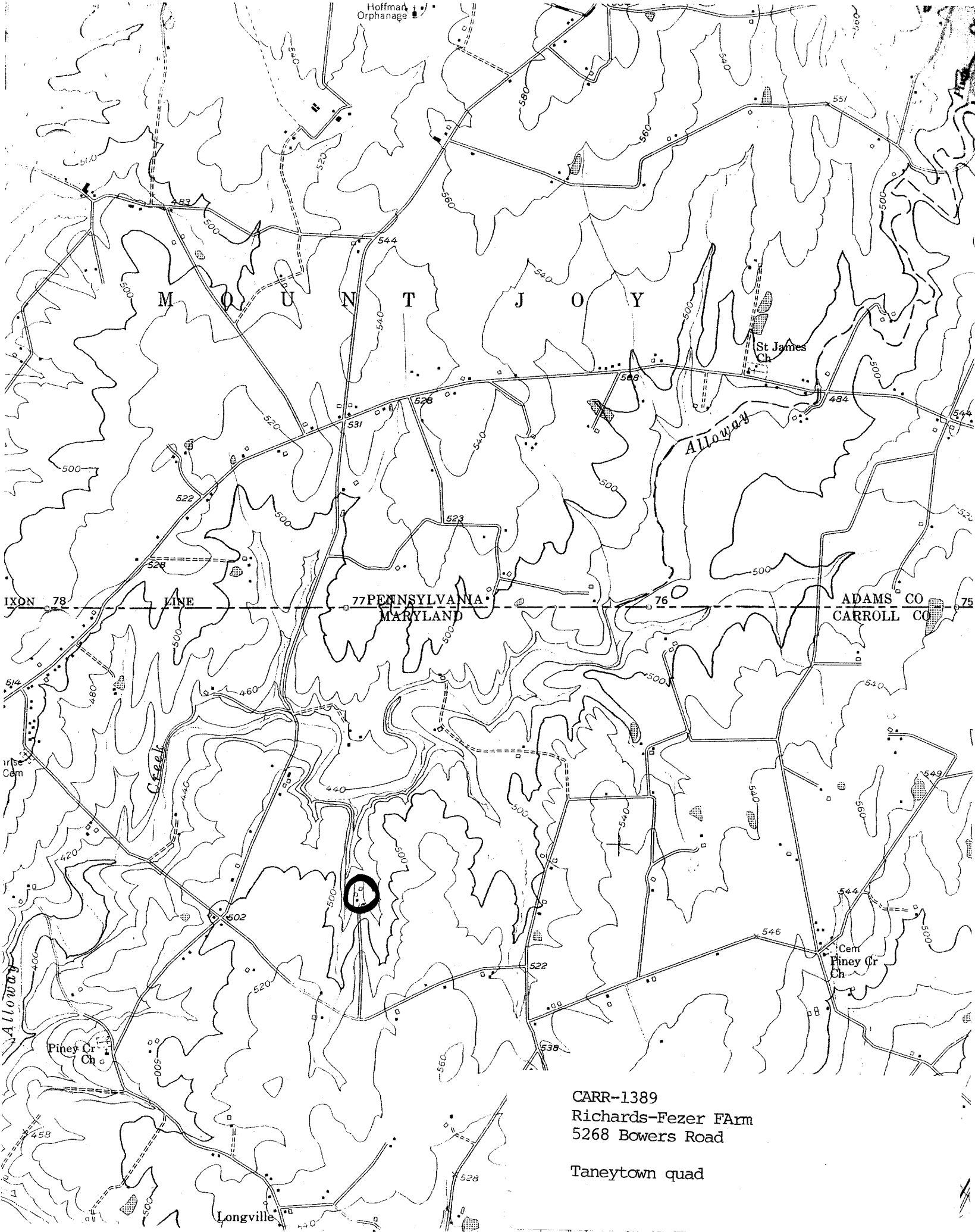
GRANTOR	HOME COUNTY	GRANTEE	HOME COUNTY	DATE	LIBER	FOLIO	TRANS- ACTION	COMMENTS
James Feezer, exec. to Jacob Feezer	Mt. Joy Township Adams Co., PA	Jacob Sell (mill- wright)	Union Township Adams Co., PA	3-31-1855	JBB 17	493	Deed Indenture	will at Register's office, Gettysburg Adams Co., PA, made 10-4-1853, sold 3-6-1855, 120¾ acres, \$2,500 part of Addition to Brookes Discovery on the Rich Lands [no previous reference]
Jacob Fezer	Frederick	Jacob Fezer, Jr.	Frederick	6-24-1820	<u>Frederick</u> JS 11	355	Deed Indenture	\$4,830, Addition to Brookes Discovery on the Rich Lands, 120¾ acres [no previous reference]
Philip Richard	Frederick	Jacob Fezer	Frederick	4-1-1820	<u>Frederick</u> JS 11	96	Deed Indenture	\$4,830, Addition to Brookes Discovery on the Rich Lands, 120¾ acres [no previous reference]

CARR-1389
Richards-Fezer Farm
5268 Bowers Road

CHAIN OF TITLE

GRANTOR	HOME COUNTY	GRANTEE	HOME COUNTY	DATE	LIBER	FOLIO	TRANS- ACTION	COMMENTS
John Richards	Frederick	Philip Richards	Frederick	12-28-1811	<u>Frederick</u> WR 41	580	Deed Indenture	£525 Addition to Brookes Discovery on the Rich Lands, 43 ¾ acres
								no other deeds to Philip Richards

KS/ltr:7-8-94:1389titl.ks



CARR-1389
Richards-Fezer FARM
5268 Bowers Road

Taneytown quad



Richards-Fezer Farm

5268 Bowers Road

Carroll County, Maryland

Photo: Kenneth M. Short

Date: February 1994

Neg. Loc.: Maryland Historical Trust

barn- south & east elevations

1/2



Richards-Fezer Farm

5268 Bowers Road

Carroll County, Maryland

Photo: Kenneth M. Short

Date: February 1994

Neg. Loc.: Maryland Historical Trust

Barn - upper story framing

2/2